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DEAR JOB, BE MY VALENTINE {page 16}

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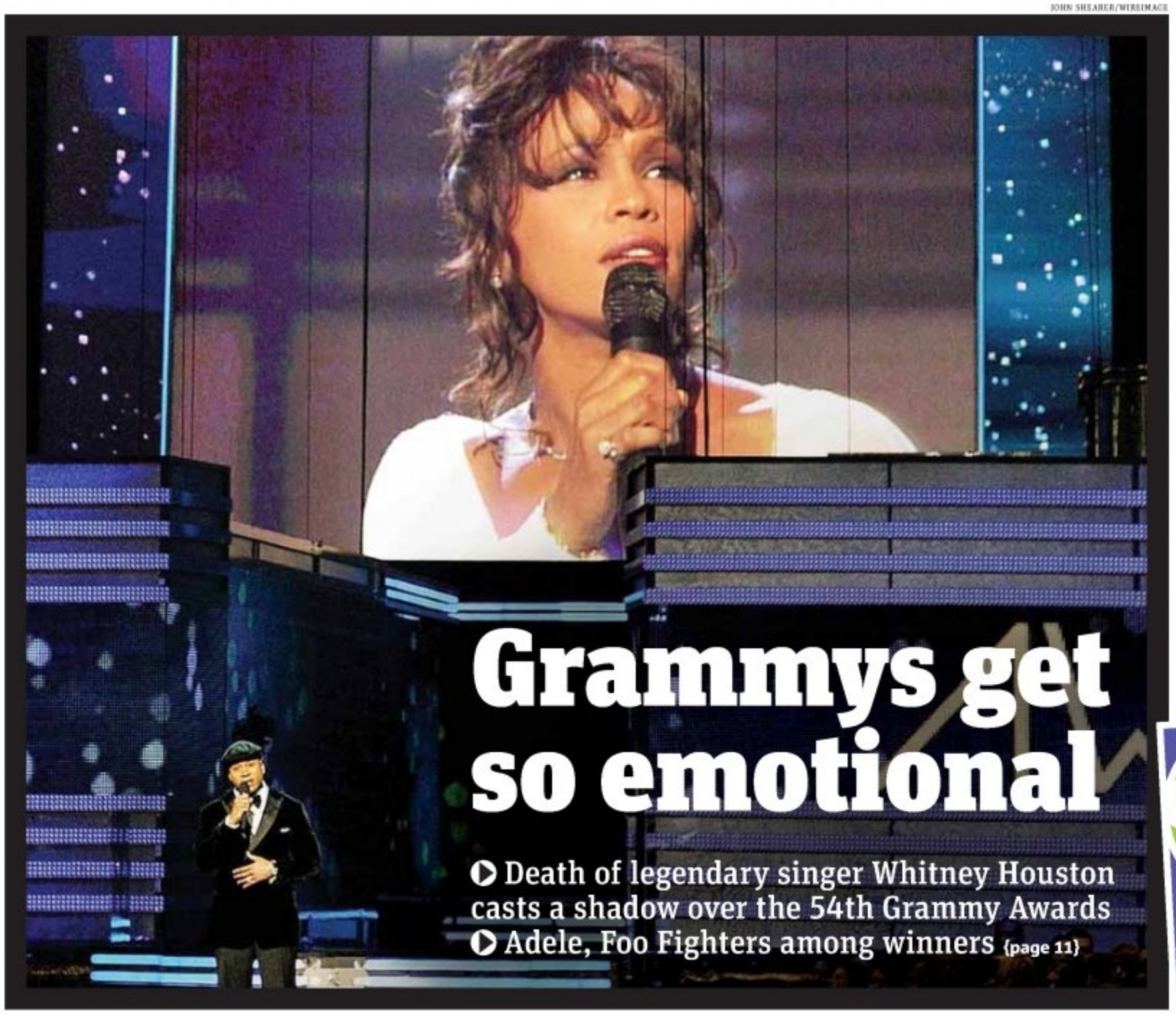

Grammys get so emotional

- Death of legendary singer Whitney Houston casts a shadow over the 54th Grammy Awards
- Adele, Foo Fighters among winners {page 11}

News

Philly brother hoteliers eye Rittenhouse

- Shah brothers becoming known for philanthropy
- They could soon be known for luxury purchase {page 04}

Always let them see you sweat

Forget advice of deodorant ads and try yoga with your sweetheart {page 15}

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Love at the first ride

Couples who met on SEPTA get chance to look back Love Train rode along elevated line yesterday

The 13th Street Station platform of SEPTA's westbound elevated train line beamed with excitement Sunday afternoon as passengers awaited the Love Train.

The train, a yearly collaboration between SEPTA and the city's Mural Arts Program, made its grand entrance midafternoon, complete with horn-honking, streamers, hearts and crafts, romantic music and tour-guides from Mural Arts.

Couples, families and even the occasional single climbed on board, packing six cars with passengers eager to behold the artistry of West Philadelphia.

One car in particular carried the 14 winning couples of the 2012 SEPTA Love Stories Contest. Whether through riding the bus, waiting for the trolley or nearly missing the morning train, all of the couples' romances first bloomed on SEPTA property.

"We met through SEPTA and it's nice to be back ... like they're doing something for us," Jemetra Harvey said, riding with her husband Michael, who she met riding a bus he drove. "We really like the goody bags and the press being here."

It's no surprise that the group fostered quick camaraderie, sharing stories with one another and marveling over the similarities.

Asked to pinpoint the ultimate objective of the event, SEPTA spokeswoman, Heather Redfern replied, "We're simply celebrating people who have found love."

More than 50 murals brightening the walls and rooftops of West Philadelphia completed the picturesque mood — with a bit of a twist. The series featured the art of courtship via colloquialisms, text-messaging style: "Hug me," "I miss you way too often not to love you" and "I had a nice dream about us."

"That's what it's about. That's the mural arts way of doing things," artist Steve Powers said during the ride, describing one of his murals that included massive painted Post-It stickers. One read: "Remember sometimes it hurts. Sometimes it doesn't."

TIFFANY KANG
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Smitten with another rider

Smitten by these endearing messages and pocketing train decorations as souvenirs, the passengers arrived back at SEPTA headquarters for continued festivities.

Passengers enjoyed gourmet chocolate fondue, entertainment provided by both a DJ and dance floor, as well as the company of countless other couples.

One couple, Krisy Plourde and Tom Golden, said their vows on the sold-out Love Train of 2011. This year, they boarded the train once more — but for less passionate purposes. Amid the frenzy of getting married, the couple said they never saw any of the actual murals. Krisy and Tom donned regular clothing, this time, and enjoyed the art together as newlyweds.

"I still take the SEPTA everyday," Plourde said. "It brings back good memories."

BIKARD LAHMA/METRO

▶ Kristen and Adi Prasetyo Utomo playfully disagreed about who wooed who on the El yesterday.

Quoted

"I really enjoyed the artwork, but the best part is all the attention we're getting! Everyone's taking pictures of us."

YETTA FISHER, WITH HER HUSBAND DREW FISHER

"After a few months of waving and sort of smiling, he tried to talk to me. But I couldn't really understand him because I was so nervous."

KRISTEN UTOMO, WITH HER HUSBAND ADI PRASETYO UTOMO

In the news

Developer sees future in Web journalism

When developer Bart Blatstein received a snub in response to his proposal to buy Philadelphia Media Network, his group responded Friday that it may just start its own newspaper. "We are announcing our intention, should we not be successful in acquiring the PMN assets, to explore the development of a new and competing digital and print publication." METRO/AW

In the news

Bon voyage, chef Perrier

Georges Perrier is handing the reins of Le Bec-Fin over to Nicolas Fanucci, of Thomas Keller's French Laundry, Perrier confirmed yesterday. Perrier said that he will retain a stake in the restaurant and an advisory role. "I will do what I do best: talk to people," he told Foobooz. "I am charming." METRO

Former Eagles sue NFL for concussion effects

PHILADELPHIA. Sixty-two more former NFL players, including at least 14 former Eagles, filed a federal lawsuit Friday accusing the NFL of concealing information about concussion-related dementia and brain disease, according to a press release.

The former Eagles include linebackers Seth Joyner, Jeremiah Trotter, Michael Stonebreaker and Britt Hager, centers Steve Everitt and Dave Alexander, defensive lineman Glen Steele, running backs Gary Ellerson and Richard Bielski, defensive back William Frizzelle, cornerback Jerry Holmes, defensive tackle Andy Harmon and offensive linemen Leo Goeas and Bob Landsee.

The complaint alleges that the NFL hid medical evidence from players. METRO/AW

BIKARD LAHMA/METRO

▶ Beware of concussions.

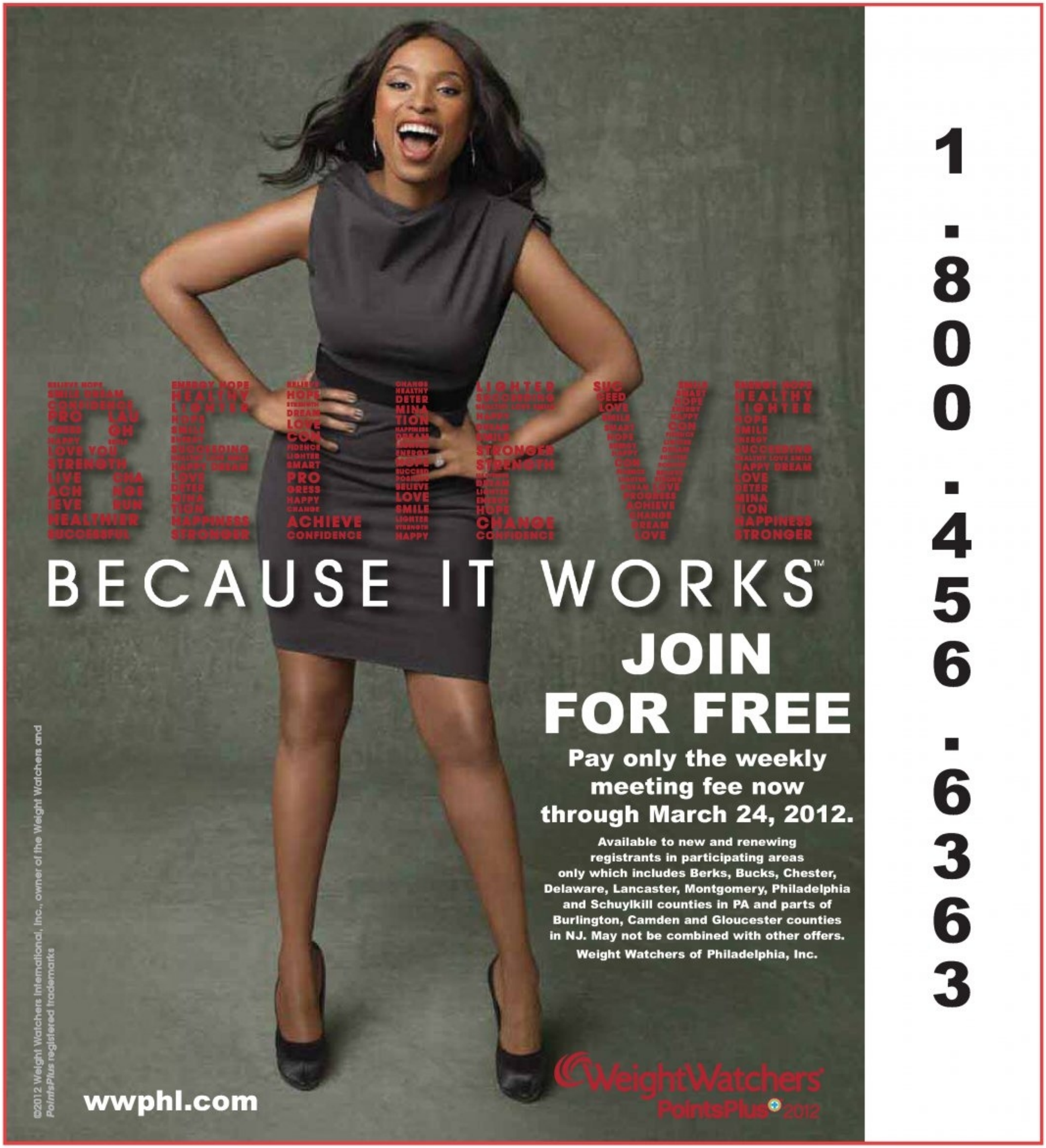
Gunfire leads to murder outside nightclub

WEST OAK LANE. Dijion Bowie, 30, was shot outside Whispers Lounge on the 7600 block of Ogontz Avenue when a fight that started inside the club spilled into the street, police said.

Authorities responded around 1:15 a.m. to find Bowie lying on the ground with a gunshot wound. He was rushed to Albert Einstein Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead shortly before 1:30 a.m.

METRO/AW

41 Homicides through last night, the highest total through yesterday in the past six years. In 2007, 38 people were killed through Feb. 11.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No full Bevilacqua autopsy

PHILADELPHIA. A full autopsy for Cardinal Anthony Bevilacqua, a key witness in a Catholic Church sex abuse trial who died last month, is unwarranted, the Montgomery County coroner examining the death said.

The retired archbishop died the day after a judge ruled he was competent to testify in an upcoming sex abuse trial. Montgomery Coroner Walter Hofman said Saturday that he had spoken to Bevilacqua's doctor the night of his death "and we felt very confident that this was not anything we need to look into further." Hofman did draw bodily fluids from Bevilacqua to determine if there were abnormal levels of medication. **REUTERS**

"He was not a healthy man. He had significant pre-existing disease."
HOFMAN, CORONER

Philly hoteliers eye Rittenhouse

Jay and Neil Shah, local sibling hotel empire owners, entered into headlines in December over their attempted acquisition of the Rittenhouse Hotel, the city's No. 1 ranked luxury property by the erudite readers of Travel + Leisure.

If they succeed in acquiring the Rittenhouse — its manager David Benton could only confirm that "negotiations are ongoing" — it will only be the latest in a long string of successes for the Shah brothers. They have grown their family's hospitality business, Hersha, to include ownership or management of more than 150 hotels. They have worked hard to insure that their hotels, concentrated along the Eastern seaboard and Los Angeles, reflect the neighborhoods where they are located.

To create the right ambience, their hotels are mostly furnished with furniture made right here in Pennsylvania. "When have you ever heard of anyone today manufacturing furniture in the United States, not China?" asked Neil Shah. "We do it because it offers us better quality, more control over the end product, and no delays in shipping."

Father Hasu Shah started the business, part of which is now listed on the NYSE, with the purchase of one hotel in Harrisburg 28 years ago. "It was natural that my parents chose to buy a hotel," Neil Shah said. "Hospitality is a big tradition in India."

"I want [guests] to feel a part of the local community for the length of the stay, almost residential in atmosphere," his brother Jay Shah added.

Their philosophy might be helping Hersha-branded hotels avoid the commoditization that many hotels chain are suffering in the age of Expedia and Travelocity.

"We encourage our guests to have a direct relationship with our hotels. The room prices on our corporate website is always the same or better than on the travel websites," Jay Shah said.

LAURA GOLDMAN
letters@metro.us

▶ Neil and Jay Shah, left to right, have become big donors to Philadelphia institutions.

Fighting brain drain

PHILADELPHIA. The Shahs, who support institutions that make Philadelphia unique like the National Constitution Center, Barnes Foundation and Please Touch Museum, hope that Philadelphia will become a "global gateway city."

While they lament the city's brain drain over the last decade, their company Hersha, which employs 3,000 to 4,000 people nationwide, is doing its part to combat it and elevate the city.

"We are recruiting Wharton and Harvard MBAs and hotel industry employees from Denver, Hawaii, and Boston," Neil Shah said. "Initially, it was hard to recruit people in finance and design to Philadelphia, but once they come they make a long-term commitment." **METRO**

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- John Smallwood, Philadelphia Daily News 1/21/2012

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GOP still targeting contraception rule

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Rep. Paul Ryan

Republicans will try to halt Democratic President Barack Obama's plan to have insurance companies for religious-affiliated charities and hospitals pay for contraception coverage, House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan said.

Opponents would win a vote in the House to block the measure announced Feb. 10 by Obama, Ryan, a Wisconsin Republican, said yesterday on ABC's "This Week."

"A lot of these Catholic institutions are self-insured, and all insurers under this rule must provide these mandated benefits," said Ryan. "So it really is a distinction without a difference. This should be rescinded."

The administration sought to quiet an uproar from some religious groups and lawmakers by adding the insurers' requirement to an earlier plan that mandated contraception coverage by employers. Republicans today continued to assail the proposal, which has been denounced by U.S. Roman Catholic bishops.

The White House defended its plan, which would compel insurers to offer contraception coverage to employees of religious-affiliated institutions at no charge.

The plan outlined by Obama has garnered support from Catholic charities and the Catholic Health Association of the United States, White House Chief of Staff Jack Lew said on the ABC program.

"We didn't expect that there would be universal support, but we do think this is the right way to go and it's a plan that we're going to pursue," said Lew.

The compromise guarantees every woman has a right to preventive care, including contraception, he said.

The issue is "resolved," Lew said in another interview today on NBC's "Meet the Press."

The requirement goes against deeply held convictions, presidential candidate Rick Santorum, a former Pennsylvania senator, said on "Meet the Press." **REUTERS**

Middle East. Arab League

▶ Saudi Arabia Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal looks on during the Foreign Affairs Ministers meeting on Syria in Cairo, where the ministers mull their next move on Syria that a bloody 11-month crackdown has left thousands dead.

MARCO LONGARI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Syria rebuffs Arab peace call

Arab states sought to regain momentum to end bloodshed in Syria with a call yesterday for a joint U.N.-Arab peacekeeping force and renewed efforts to build international support by hosting a meeting of Arabs and Western powers later this month. Syria swiftly rejected the resolution. **REUTERS**

Airlines to UN: EU-China trade war brewing

SINGAPORE. Global airlines called yesterday for a U.N.-brokered deal to prevent a battle over aviation emissions between China and the European Union spilling into a damaging trade war.

The call by the head of the International Air Transport Association comes amid signs that the EU may be willing to soften a unilateral stance that also risks souring efforts to resolve Europe's sovereign debt crisis.

IATA Director General Tony Tyler said airlines had become wedged between conflicting domestic laws after China ordered its airlines not to join the EU's compulsory market-based system for regulating airline emissions.

China was an early opponent of the EU's cap-and-trade scheme, which has also drawn protests from the United States and India, and the escalating row threatens to hamper international economics efforts. **REUTERS**

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2011-0195 METRO (1/12)

Mitt Romney: 'Severely' accurate

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Mitt Romney claimed a pair of wins during the weekend, scoring a close victory over Rep. Ron Paul in Maine (39 percent to 36 percent) and, more surprisingly, winning the straw poll at the 2012 Conservative Political Action Conference annual gathering of right-minded individuals.

The latter win is surprising in that Romney has struggled to convince voters of his true conservative credentials, due mostly to his former role as governor of the historically liberal state of Massachusetts.

Yet somehow Romney — described as "liberal" and "moderate" by certain primary opponents — wowed the activist crowd. Rick Santorum, who lost the poll by 7 points, has a theory: Romney, he claims, like Paul before him, rigged the vote, "because he just trucks in a lot of people, pays for their ticket, they come in and vote and then leave."

Sarah Palin, who made a splash at CPAC with populist speechifying, also remains skeptical of Romney's conversion. "I am not convinced [of Romney's conservatism] and I don't think that the majority of GOP and independent voters are convinced," she told Fox News yesterday.

MANDEL NGAN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Romney means business.

What's it mean?

According to the Web linguists at dictionary.com, "severe" is not exactly the most positive descriptor.

se·vere, adjective:

- **1. harsh; unnecessarily extreme:** severe criticism.
- **2. serious or stern in manner:** a severe face.
- **3. grave; critical:** a severe illness.
- **4. rigidly restrained in style, taste, manner, etc.; simple.**
- **5. causing discomfort or distress by extreme character or conditions,** as weather, cold, or heat; **unpleasantly violent,** as rain or wind, or a blow or shock.

Romney, for his part, seems aware of this weakness. At his CPAC speech on Friday, he made extra sure to hype his conservative cred, using the word "conservative" (or a close variation thereof) 25 times in the 26-minute address. "I was a severely conservative Republican governor," he told attendees.

Some right-wingers — including Rep. Paul and radio host Rush Limbaugh — were particularly confused by the "severely" line, but we weren't. "Severe," as readers can see in the box to the left, refers specifically to "unnecessary" extremes, "grave" epidemics like sickness, "rigid" ideas and beliefs, and those people and things known for "causing discomfort," "distress" or "unpleasant violence." Sounds remarkably on the money.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

GET FED

Sometimes you've only got time for the headlines:

- "Romney's Unconvincing Victories" **NEW YORKER**
- "At CPAC, Mitt Romney throws red meat" **POLITICO**
- "Romney is the right man for America. George Romney, that is" **THE WASHINGTON POST**
- "Santorum plans aggressive strategy against Romney" **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**
- "Mitt Romney Once Backed Provision He Now Decries" **HUFFINGTON POST**
- "CPAC settles for Mitt Romney's 'severe conservative' routine" **GUARDIAN.CO.UK**
- " Romney wins mask lingering questions about his candidacy" **CNN**
- "We Need a Second Party" **THE NEW YORK TIMES**

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What happened to Whitney? Q&A with expert on addiction

Legendary songstress Whitney Houston was found dead in her bathtub on Saturday afternoon. No evidence of crime or self-harm was found at the scene. She was due to attend her mentor Clive Davis' pre-Grammy party that night, as well as the actual ceremony the following day.

The 48-year-old Houston was known to have used cocaine, crack cocaine and weed in the past — addictions she sought to end with a number of stints in rehab.

The cause of her death remains unknown.

We speak to addiction expert Dr. John Sharpe about her death:

Addicts often seem to die suddenly. Why is that?

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Whitney Houston admitted in 2009 to using drugs with ex-husband Bobby Brown.

We know that she has had a long struggle with drugs, namely cocaine and crack cocaine, and it may have beaten her. Over the years, it can ravage the body and people get worn down — which can have catastrophic consequences. Cocaine can cause stress, which can further lead to heart attacks, aneurysms or strokes. Although in Whitney's case, it could have been unrelated.

What do you think could have been the cause of her death?

"We know that she has had a long struggle with drugs, namely cocaine and crack cocaine, and it may have beaten her."
SHARPE

I think her body gave in to years of abuse or a recent period of indulgence. She had recently just wrapped up shooting for the movie "Sparkle" and was in L.A. over the weekend getting ready to attend Clive Davis' party. These are all relevant factors. People celebrate big accomplishments, and I worry that she may have overindulged in old vices at the wrong time. It was just 3 o'clock in the afternoon [when she died]. I'd like to believe she got the drugs out of her system, and in a moment of total letdown her body gave out.

Do you think she could have overdosed?

I don't think she overdosed. If someone uses cocaine, even if they are not old, they run the risk of significant cardiovascular strain. What people don't get is that it can happen at any time, even the first time you use the drug. But if drugs have worn you down, you may have developed an underlying vulnerability or cardiac problem, and you can add to that the stress of the cocaine and life. People who use don't see that any time could be the last time. She was too young to die in a bathtub but old enough to have suffered the cumulative ravages of drug use.

Reports about her recent health are conflicting. What do you make of that?

Some say she looked wonderful recently and others say she was far from that. There are a lot of conflicting reports, that she was totally clean and fine or that she has been highly intoxicated. She has had a lot of stress in her life, a lot of emotional battles and these health factors alone can kill you.

She was the queen of the music industry. What people need to hear is that when you lead a life like she did, you cannot avoid coming into contact with drugs or alcohol. You wind up having to deal with your demons. It's a cautionary tale. The next queens out there need to know in advance the potential risks and need to find a way to keep a level head and stay healthy.

I just don't think Whitney dealt with her demons.

ROMINA MCGUINNESS
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

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THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

WHITNEY HOUSTON: WHAT WE KNOW FOR NOW

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

▶ One of the last known photos taken of Houston: Here she is, arriving to a Grammy Party at Tru Hollywood on Thursday. She looked much better than the LA Times reported her as seeming.

The shocking news that music legend **Whitney Houston** died on Saturday at the age of 48 has everyone in the world asking: What happened? As of press time, this is what we know:

▶ On Thursday afternoon, a Los Angeles Times reporter who was on hand to cover rehearsals with **Brandy**, **Monica**, and **Clive Davis** for the mogul's annual pre-Grammys party described Houston as reeking of alcohol, "visibly bloated" and "disheveled in mismatched clothes and hair that was dripping wet with either sweat or water." They report she spent half the day "wandering aimlessly" around the lobby of the Beverly Hills Hilton, where she was staying and where she was set to perform at the same event. Reportedly, guests even called security on the singer, who was performing handstands by the hotel pool.

▶ An autopsy was performed yesterday, but it looks like the cause of death was from drowning in a bathtub; Houston was probably under some kind of sedation. According to TMZ.com, her stylist, hairdresser and two bodyguards were among the ones who found Houston underwater. She had apparently been in the bathroom for more than an hour when her hairdresser went in to check on her, and then screamed for help.

▶ Per TMZ.com, they discovered her with her "face below the water and her legs up ... like she had slid down the back of the tub." The bodyguards pulled her out and called hotel security. After performing CPR on her "cold" body, paramedics pronounced her dead at 3:55 p.m.

▶ Radaronline.com reports that no illicit drugs were found in Houston's hotel room, but police did recover a half dozen pill bottles from her room, including Xanax, Lorazepam and Valium.

▶ Houston's 18-year-old daughter, **Bobbi Kristina**, has been hospitialized twice over the weekend. "She was distraught, on the verge of a complete breakdown," a source tells Radaronline.com.

▶ Fans created a makeshift memorial in front of the Beverly Hills Hilton to mark Whitney Houston's passing on Saturday.

The feed ...

▶ **Stars react to the passing of Whitney Houston on Twitter.**

@BarbraStreisand
She had everything, beauty, a magnificent voice. How sad her gifts could not bring her the same happiness they brought us.

@Oprah
To me Whitney was THE VOICE. We got to hear a part of God every time she sang. Heart is heavy, spirit grateful for the GIFT of her.

@MariahCarey
She will never be forgotten as one of the greatest voices to ever grace the earth.

@SpikeLee
God Bless The Dead. Whitney Houston R.I.P. She Was Only 48 Years Young.

@SimonCowell
I am so sad to hear about Whitney. We have lost one of the greatest singers of all time.

@TonyBennett
It's a tragedy. Whitney Houston was the greatest singer I've ever heard and she will be truly missed.

@ChristinaAguilera
We have lost another legend.

Bobby Brown releases statement

Brown

In his first official comments about the death of his ex-wife, the R&B star released a statement to People saying, "I am deeply saddened at the passing of my ex-wife, Whitney Houston." He adds, "At this time, we ask for privacy, especially for my daughter, **Bobbi Kristina**. I appreciate all of the condolences that have been directed towards my family and I at this most difficult time."

Party on?

Clive Davis, Houston's mentor, went on with his annual pre-Grammys bash at the Hliton hours after his protege died in the same hotel. Instead of canceling the event, which was attended by celebrities such as **Alicia Keys**, **Tom Hanks**, **Jennifer Hudson**, **Diana Ross**, **Princess Beatrice**, **Brandy**, **Mary J. Blige**, **Jessie J** and **Kim Kardashian** (who, judging by this photo, decided to go with a demure look in respect for Houston's passing), Davis, 79, held a moment of silence before a slew of performances dedicated to her. What do you think? Was not canceling the event — at which Houston was to perform — in bad taste?

A Kardashian in mourning

mygrammy awards

ROLLING IN THE SWEEP

Adele wins big, but Grammy Awards overshadowed by untimely death of incomparable Whitney Houston

When LL Cool J took the stage to host the 54th Grammy Awards last night, he immediately cleared the air and set the tone for a show that was mostly full of reflective moments, with a few bursts of celebrating the healing powers of music.

"There is no way around this," said the host, who appeared to have tear-stained cheeks. "We've had a death in our family."

He then led the crowd in a prayer to remember Whitney Houston, who died on Saturday. Later in the show, Jennifer Hudson belted out a crushing version of "I Will Always Love You" for which Houston won the Record of the Year award in 1994. Hudson's rendition was full of sadness and beauty, much like Houston's all too short life. The tribute was especially touching, given that Houston — who had six Grammy Awards to her name — had presented Hudson with her first Grammy award just three years earlier.

Speaking of goosebump-inducing performances and Record of the Year awards, when Adele sang "Rolling in the Deep," her first performance since having vocal surgery in November, she brought the whole crowd to its feet.

The British singer won every single award she was nominated for this year, including the big three, Record of the Year, Song of the Year and Album of the Year.

"Thank you so much, this is ridiculous," Adele said upon winning the Record of the Year award. In accepting other awards, she was humble and quick to deflect attention to her co-writers. And when she won the final award, she burst into tears, and had a hilarious moment where she acknowledged "a little bit of snot."

Elsewhere in the show, some of the evening's performances seemed inappropriately over-the-top, such as Chris Brown's two appearances, and Nicki Minaj's elaborate rap opera of "The Exorcism of Roman." Foo Fighters turned in passionate, yet purposefully understated performances of "Walk" and "Rope," the former of which won the Grammy for Best Rock Song. Dave Grohl and company quietly won five awards, including Best Rock Album.

PAT HEALY
pat.healy@metro.us

Winners

- **Record of the Year:** Adele, "Rolling in the Deep"
- **Album of the Year:** Adele, "21"
- **Song of the Year:** Adele, "Rolling in the Deep"
- **Best New Artist:** Bon Iver
- **Best Rock Album:** Foo Fighters "Wasting Light"
- **Best Rap Album:** Kanye West "My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy"
- **Best Country Album:** Lady Antebellum, "Own the Night"
- **Best Alternative Album:** Bon Iver "Bon Iver"

LESTER COHEN/WIREIMAGE

▶ Adele could have had it all, and she did have it all, including "a little bit of snot."

The greatest love of all

With the sudden death of one of the greatest singers in pop history on Saturday, everybody was talking about Whitney Houston last night, both on the red carpet with Ryan Seacrest, and at the podium. Here are some of the more notable quotes.

- "I think everyone's kind of in shock. ... She impacted everybody. She's Whitney freaking Houston!" *Adam Levine of Maroon 5*
- "I feel like there is a little bit of a dark cloud, but it's ironic, because instead of grieving, we can all let music heal us. ... We can celebrate Whitney with music, because that's what she lived for." *Miranda Lambert*
- "She paved the way for a lot of people. She inspired me." *Flo Rida*
- "Make some noise for Whitney!" *Rihanna*
- "I just want to say to Whitney, up in heaven, we love you." *Stevie Wonder*
- "Tonight we're celebrating the music of Miss Whitney Houston!" *Bruno Mars*

▶ Whitney Houston won six Grammy awards during her lifetime.

LARRY BUSACCA/WIREIMAGE

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Tales from the 'Ex Files'

All-star storyteller

R. Eric Thomas' formula for good story delivery:

- **Be comfortable.** "Nobody can tell the story but you."
- **Don't look to the audience for validation.** "Don't be fooled by people's expressions – they're usually enjoying it more than you think."
- **Wrap it up right.** "When you finish talking, sit down."

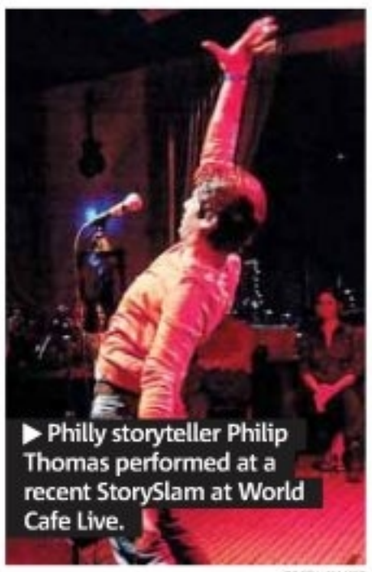
No matter what your status is on Valentine's Day, First Person Arts' StorySlam is the perfect Hallmark anecdote

While everyone loves a good story, not everyone fancies love stories. That's why this year's anti-Valentine's Day festivities would be incomplete without disclosure of "The Ex Files," presented by First Person Arts' StorySlam series.

StorySlam features everyday people in the storytelling ring. Ten audience members, each armed with five minutes and the theme of the night, vie for the favor of three randomly selected judges and, ultimately, a Golden Ticket to May's Grand Slam.

The themes, derived from previous years' feedback, are always "broad enough to inspire multiple interpretations," says StorySlam coordinator Karina Kacala. Hence, each episode welcomes liberal approaches to the winning narrative.

In fact, since the series' debut six years ago, storytelling dynamics in Philadelphia have taken a hearty turn. "We've seen a lot of stand-up geared toward storytelling — a form of alternative comedy," says four-time champion R. Eric Thomas.



▶ Philly storyteller Philip Thomas performed at a recent StorySlam at World Cafe Live.

ERIKA VORIE

If you go

'The Ex Files' StorySlam
Tomorrow, 8:30 p.m.
World Cafe Live
3025 Walnut St.
www.storyslams.firstpersonarts.org

Throughout the evolution, a diverse crew has stepped on stage. While some participants, like Thomas, are fashioning careers from storytelling, most are not artists by profession — teachers, plumbers and MBAs alike have all delivered equally delightful anecdotes.

And if January's slam, "Against the Odds," is any indication of what is to come at tomorrow's event, then we can expect a savory set of tales: Last month's storytellers told of the usual job interview face-off to the Herculean epic of divine intervention (aka how-I-saved-my-childhood-crush-from-tree-impalement).

As Kacala says, "Everyone's invited."

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Audiences say 'I do!' to Tatum, McAdams

Romance movie "The Vow" topped U.S. and Canadian movie box office charts over a pre-Valentine's Day weekend that saw the top three films exceed expectations, according to studio estimates released yesterday.

"The Vow," starring Rachel McAdams and Channing Tatum, took in $41.7 million at theaters from Friday through Sunday. Action movie "Safe House," with Denzel Washington and Ryan Reynolds, took second place with $39.3 million.

In third place, family film "Journey 2: The Mysterious Island" brought in $27.6 million.

The movie division of Sony Corp. released "The Vow." "Safe House" was from Universal Pictures, a division of Comcast Corp. And Warner Bros. distributed "Journey 2." REUTERS

▶ Channing Tatum and Rachel McAdams romanced American audiences at the box office this weekend.

SCREEN GEMS

TV Watch list

'Mike & Molly'

COMEDY. Mike may miss Valentine's Day dinner. The "but my love for you isn't reserved for just one day" line isn't going to get you out of this one, buddy. **9:31 p.m., CBS**

'Smash'

DRAMA. No one said stepping into the shoes of Marilyn Monroe was going to be easy — especially not temperamental director Derek, who makes Karen and Ivy jump through hoops. **10 p.m., NBC**

'The BET Honors'

SPECIAL. The event honoring African-American achievement recognizes the work of Stevie Wonder, Mariah Carey, Maya Angelou, Spike Lee, and the Tuskegee Airmen. **9 p.m., BET**

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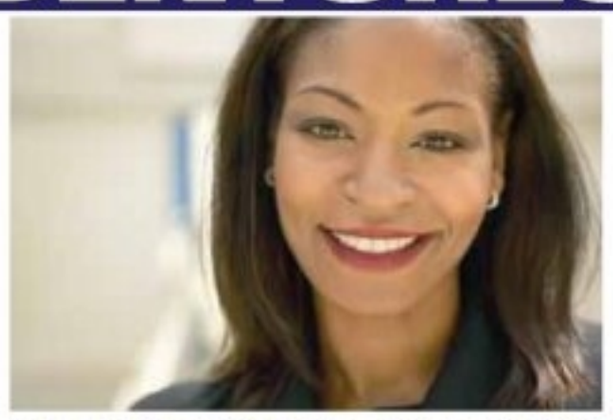

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Yoga for two

Couple's yoga expert Nadia Narain guides us through three poses that will help you get extra close this Valentine's Day It's OK to giggle your way through

We leave early in the morning and come home late at night, passing out next to our partners. The problem: We're not always fully present, often spending more time interacting with our iPhones than each other. These yoga poses are aimed at slowing you down and bringing you closer together with your Valentine for an intense five to eight minutes of your day.

1 Calming breath

- Sit back to back with your partner in a comfortable position, making sure your spine is straight. Sitting on a pillow may help lift your lower back.

Start breathing in and out together, and feel each other's breath as you start breathing in unison.

- Breathe in for two counts and out for four for a few rounds. Then, in for three and out for six; then, in for four and out for eight, gradually building up to in for five and out for ten.

This helps you create a deep feeling of relaxation. This is your chance to slow down the nervous system and connect with your partner after a busy day.

2 Downward dog

- This is a classic pose and, done together, it will get the two of you laughing and feeling connected. Position your mats in a straight line (not side by side). Facing away from each other, get on your hands and knees. With your toes tucked under, lift your bum up in the air and press your thighs back to straighten the legs.
- Press in your hands as you straighten the arms and press your bum up as high as possible. If you both look between your legs you should be able to see one another.
- From here, you can tread gently from heel to heel or take long breaths in and deep sighs out.

This is a great pose to stretch the back and strengthen the arms and shoulders.

Start or end your Valentine's Day with a little partner yoga.

CREATAS

3 Spinal twist

- Lie on your backs next to each other and stretch your arms to the side. Your left hand can hold your partner's right wrist and vice versa.
- Place your feet flat on floor, then lift your feet off the ground and bring your knees into your chest.
- Lower your knees to the right. As you are both lowering your knees in same direction, take five breaths.
- Lift your knees and then lower over to the left side, taking five breaths.
- Place your feet back on the ground.

The spinal twist opens the chest (where the heart is) and releases tension in the lower back, shoulders and neck.

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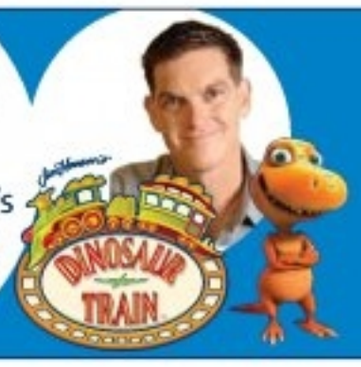

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▶ Aw, you shouldn't have, desk!

▶ Chances are you spend just as much time at work as you do with your Valentine ▶ Make sure you're doing something you at least enjoy

As you're running around buying chocolates for loved ones, spend a little time this Valentine's Day considering your affection for that other big part of your life: Your job. "The average full-time employee is spending more than a third of their day on their job," says Anthony Morrison, vice president of career-matching company Cachinko. "If anything is going to take up that much time, shouldn't it be something you love?"

If you're attempting to reignite the flame at work, remember why you initially fell in love with your position. Heather Huhman, author and founder of recruitment consultants Come Recommended, suggests you stay positive. "Think about all of the great things you've done," she says. "Write down these successes in a spot where you can see them each day to keep your motivation high and attitude positive."

It can also help to form real relationships with co-workers. "Participate in the work community," says Huhman. "It's important to interact with the folks you spend eight or more hours with each day. From time to time, engage in the water cooler chat, take your lunch in the cafeteria or ask a co-worker how their day is going."

Have you ever fallen out of love?

As for the everyday bad romances, it's your responsibility to keep negativity out of your cubicle. "No one is in charge of your happiness but you," says Lynne Sarikas, executive director of the MBA Career Center at Northeastern University in Boston. "If you have colleagues who like to moan and complain, don't listen."

JULIA WEST
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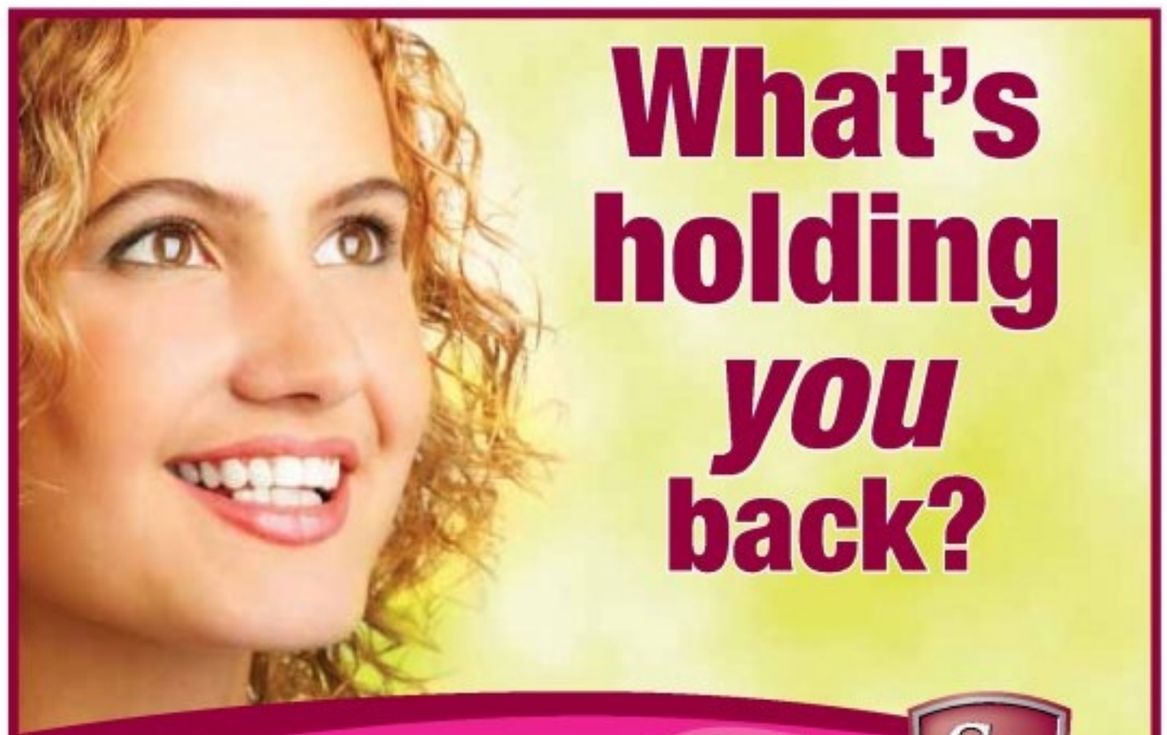

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Quoted

"I did dozens of jobs in pro sports, and none of them require that you be 7'2" or hit a baseball 450 feet."
GLENN CAPELOTO

"I didn't make it as a sportscaster — which was my initial dream — but I still got to be side-by-side with Vin Scully. There's just an inexplicable energy to being in the press box. It's a special fraternity," he explains. "I did dozens of jobs in pro sports, and none of them require that you be 7'2" or hit a baseball 450 feet."

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living in the sports world ◗ Glenn Capeloto gives us the play-by-play on Row' ◗ 'Mostly you just want to get involved anywhere you can,' he says

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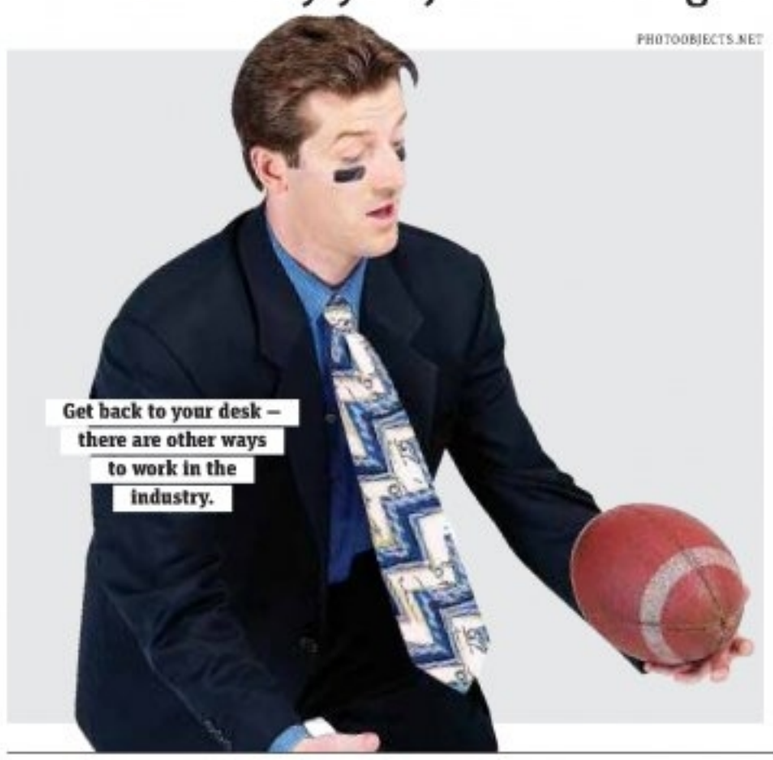

Star Athlete," will be released this month. In 368 pages, he profiles dozens of behind-the-scenes careers in sports, picking the brains of many industry professionals — from referees to equipment managers — to find out how to get one's foot in the door.

"The sports information office at your local college is a great place to start breaking in," explains Capeloto. "These places thrive and survive off of contributions from volunteers and interns. But mostly you just want to get involved anywhere you can. Think of it as a tryout. You're trying that particular specialty on for size, and you're looking for a fit."

BRUCE WALSH
bruce.walsh@metro.us

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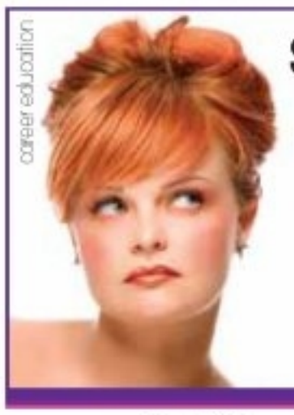

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Letters

letters@metro.us

Readers passionate about contraception

RE: "RIGHT'S WAR ON WOMEN?": To all up in arms over contraceptive "rights": No one is trampling on your rights. You have the right to abstain or to pay for your own contraceptives. You don't have the right to make those who disagree with your choices pay for them through taxes or higher insurance premiums.
SHOSHANA ROSE, VIA E-MAIL

With the new plan President Obama has come up with, religious organizations, charities and hospitals will still need to offer insurance and then pay the premium. This means they are actually paying for the actual cost of such contraceptive services! All I can say is that Thomas Jefferson and the founding fathers must be turning over in their graves. **FREDERICK R. BEDELL JR., GLEN OAKS VILLAGE**

Had Obama, who took an oath to support and defend the U.S. Constitution, understood the concept of God-given rights, he never would have enacted ObamaCare and would not have been at odds with the Catholic Church. Where does King Obama come off saying "we decided" to grant the Church special dispensation relating to their concerns about being forced to be part of actions specifically condemned by their teachings?
JOSEPH DUPONT, PHILADELPHIA

I fail to understand how forcing an institution that actively preaches against a certain thing to fund it can be fine, but not interfering in any way with a person's right to make her own choices can be an affront to religious liberty.
JESSE M. PORCH, VIA E-MAIL

The Catholic Church finds itself in yet another dilemma. Contraception has, over the years, prevented millions of abortions.
BOB SIKSO, VIA E-MAIL

Liberals like Brayden Simms and Suzy Sandor prove one thing: Democrats are anti-Christian and uneducated.
ROCKY LORE, VIA E-MAIL

If the administration is so worried about the "women's health issue," why not free contraception for men?
JOAN BACHMAN, HAZLET, NJ

God bestowed upon man the freedom of choice. Adam had a choice. Abraham had a choice. The people, through Pilate, had a choice. God is obviously pro-choice.
MARK NOBLE, VIA E-MAIL

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Horoscope

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Go out of your way to find some time to be with an old friend, because it'll give you a lift in a big way.
♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Successful end results can be achieved through persistence and tenacity.
♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Regardless of what you're working on, even if it is something new, results should be pleasant and copious.
♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** It may have taken more time than it should have, but that acknowledgement you deserve for something done the hard way will finally be there.
♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Because you won't be intimidated or taken for granted, you'll manage to be practical about how you handle things.
♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** If you're in need of someone to confide in, be sure to seek out a practical-minded recipient whom you can open up to without fear of reprisal.
♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Because you're willing to be cooperative and to make some hard concessions, you'll set the example for those you're dealing with.
♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** A singleness of purpose and total dedication to your objectives will be the reason for your success.
♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** You're not likely to feel comfortable or effective when around individuals whose philosophy or standards don't match yours.
♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** A long-standing personal matter that has been hanging around your neck for far too long may finally be put to rest.
♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Go ahead and ask for that much-needed advice, but be prepared to receive some bittersweet counsel.
♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Although there won't be any free rides offered, that doesn't mean your powers of acquisition will be totally impotent. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**

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14 Tel __
15 Dwindled
16 Sunblock additive
17 Four-star review
18 Creepy feeling (2 wds.)
20 Long, flat timber
22 __ been had!
23 Mini-map
24 Laconic
26 FL hours
27 Kitchen fixture
30 Lake Superior islands
34 Kind of collision (hyph.)
35 Type of muffin
36 Arabic lute
37 Castaway's refuge
38 Departure
40 Grammy winner
41 Negatives
42 __ pro quo
43 Club car
45 Burger flipper
47 Edited
48 Drench
49 See the light(2 wds.)
50 Michael Caine role
53 Droop
54 Wacky
58 Florida catch(2 wds.)
61 Jungle knife
62 Do socks
63 Canine pickup
64 __ it on thick
65 Marsupial pockets
66 Swiftness
67 Nonprofit org.

Down
1 Distort
2 Cameo shape
3 Bounty rival
4 Dusk, to a poet
5 Nail container
6 Woodwind player
7 Over
8 __-majeste
9 Citrus cooler
10 Short outings
11 Mendicant's request
12 Wear a long face
13 Most desirable
19 Shaggy bovine
21 Casino game
25 Le Car producer
26 Shoulder ornament
27 Does pull-ups
28 Early moralist
29 Ultralight wood
30 Exist
31 Cel characters
32 Sudden charge
33 Bordered
35 Proposal
39 Width of a cir.
40 Aptly
42 Chess piece
44 Ancient Roman poet
46 Wrenches
47 Substitute ruler
49 Hangs open
50 Safe havens
51 Olin or Horne
52 Acct. insurer
53 Humane org.
55 Pillow filler
56 Cannes cop
57 Jedi master
59 Bonfire remains
60 Country addr.

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SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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	4	9		7				
		4	7	8	3			
			2	9	4	5		
				4		7	2	
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1			9		7			3

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to weekend's crossword

F	U	Z	Z	■	D	E	B	A	R	■	R	A	S	H
E	P	E	E	■	A	M	U	S	E	■	A	L	P	O
M	O	A	N	■	Y	U	R	T	S	■	P	O	U	R
E	N	L	I	S	T	■	G	R	I	P	P	E	R	S
■	■	■	T	O	R	T	■	O	S	L	O	■	■	■
F	U	C	H	S	I	A	■	T	U	R	N	E	D	
A	N	A	■	O	P	I	N	E	■	S	T	A	R	E
I	C	I	■	■	S	N	E	A	D	■	■	S	A	L
L	U	R	C	H	■	T	E	R	R	A	■	A	S	H
S	T	O	L	E	N	■	■	L	O	R	E	L	E	I
■	■	■	O	R	E	S	■	S	O	L	D	■	■	■
B	E	S	T	O	W	A	L	■	P	O	D	I	U	M
R	I	O	T	■	A	T	A	R	I	■	I	O	T	A
E	R	I	E	■	G	E	N	I	E	■	E	W	E	R
W	E	L	D	■	E	D	G	A	R	■	S	A	S	E

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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Wings win game while tweeting for a good cause

Wings trade last names for Twitter handles to raise money for the American Cancer Society ◐ Jerseys auctioned off after game ◐ Drew Westervelt's heroics lead to 14-13 win

Thanks to the antics of Chad Ochocinco, most professional sports leagues have prohibited players from tweeting during games. However, the Philadelphia Wings made history yesterday as Twitter made its way on the playing field for some lacrosse action at the Wells Fargo Center.

Well, sort of.

Gone were the familiar last names on the back of the team's jerseys; instead, they were replaced with Twitter handles like @bigdaws02 (Paul Dawson), @maxseibald42 (Max Seibald) and @DanDawson6 (Dan Dawson).

The Wings sported teal and white jerseys with their customary logo on the front. After the game, the team auctioned off the game jerseys, with all proceeds donated to the American Cancer Society.

"It's tremendous. We did some specialty jerseys a couple weeks ago and we had a win," said forward Drew Westervelt (@Dwesty1426). "It's good to be a part of giving back. I think what the organization is doing is a good thing, and it's exciting for us to wear something different. I think it's exciting for the fan base, and it's pretty impressive to see people are bidding a significant amount of money on them."

Playing for a truly good cause, the Wings improved to 3-2 on the season by outlasting the Buffalo Bandits, 14-13. Westervelt broke a 12-12 tie with less than four minutes remaining, and added his third goal of the night less than two minutes later to seal the victory.

In addition to Westervelt's heroics, Dan Dawson added nine assists, rookie Kevin Crowley had four goals and captain Brodie Merrill had three goals and two assists.

The players and the organization welcomed the idea of making American professional sports history by self-promoting themselves on the job.

"I think it was pretty cool," head coach and general manager Johnny Mouradian said. "Tonight someone said in the locker room after the game maybe we should wear a different jersey every night. I think next week we'll have everybody put Drew Westervelt on the back of their jersey to see if that works."

SONNY PINKNEY
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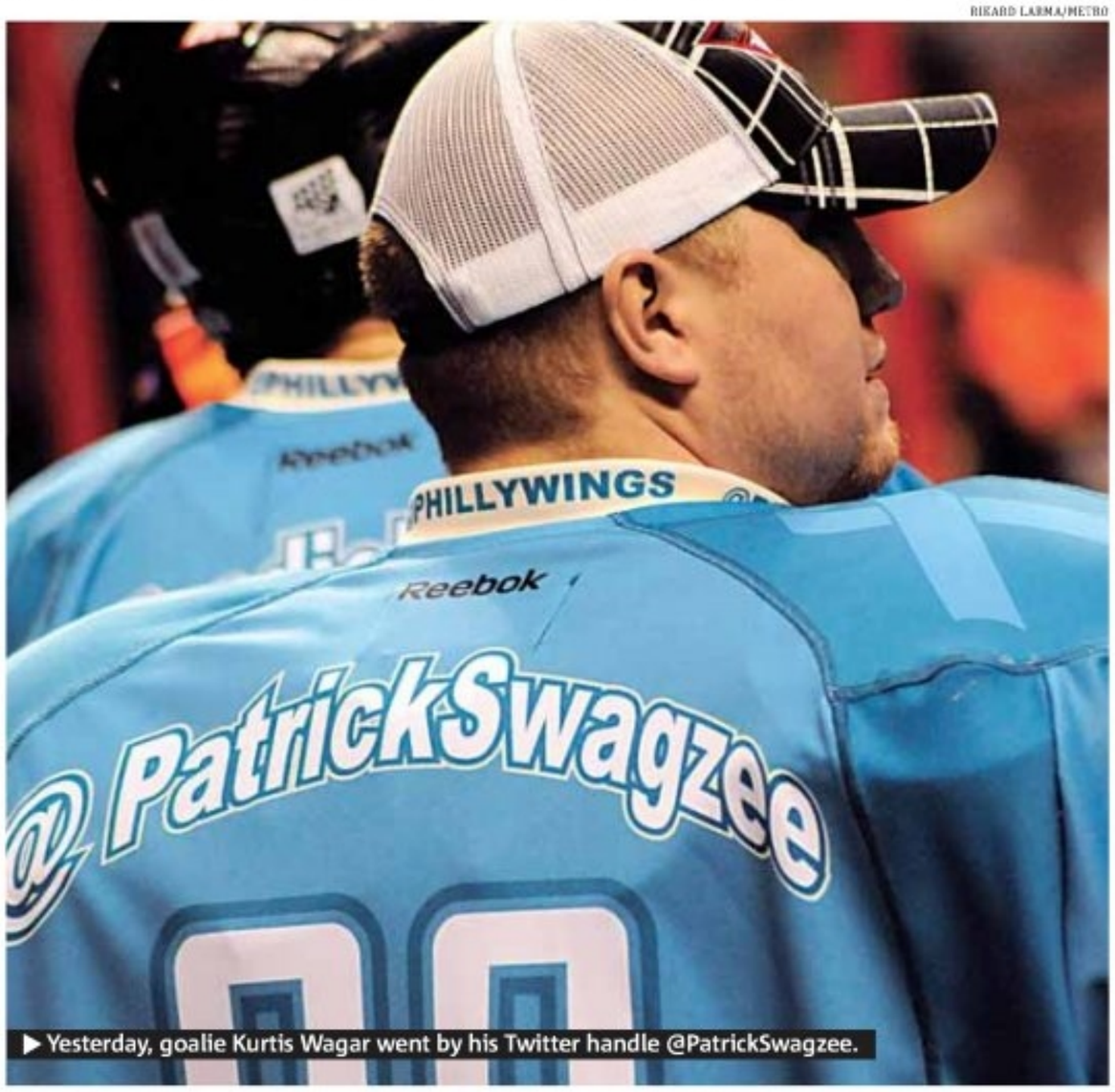
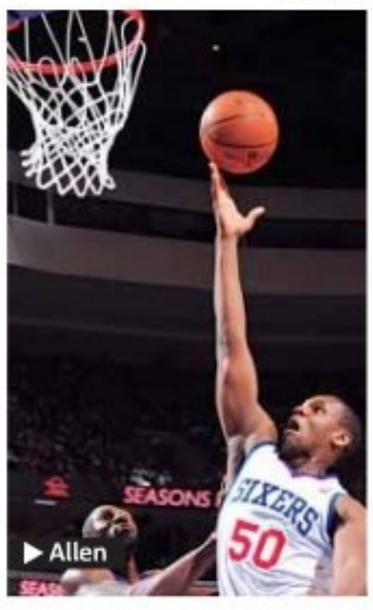
RICARD LARMA/METRO



▶ Yesterday, goalie Kurtis Wagar went by his Twitter handle @PatrickSwagzee.

GETTY IMAGES



▶ Allen

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Late Impact

Rookie Lavoy Allen has found a spot in the Sixers' rotation.

- **Allen, a Philly native and** late second-round selection has helped fill in for the injury-plagued Sixers, averaging 5.1 points and 4.5 rebounds per game.
- **Through Saturday's game,** Allen ranked 22nd in scoring among all NBA rookies. He also ranks seventh in rebounding and 18th in minutes played (16.8 per game).
- **He scored a career-high** 15 points in a Feb. 1, 98-82 win over Eastern Conference-leading Chicago.

Temple's Allen motors his way into Sixers' game plan

Rookie Lavoy Allen is well aware of his reputation.

He picked it up at Overbrook High School, it followed him to Temple and dogged him during the NBA draft process: Allen doesn't play hard.

According to Sixers coach Doug Collins, Allen would have been a first-round pick if not for questions about his "motor." Instead, he slipped to the 20th pick of the second round before the hometown Sixers scooped him up.

"It's just the way I play, people take it as a low motor," Allen said. "I play real calm, real smooth. I can't change what people think."

"We watched him on tape, and we kept saying, 'If he's got a motor, he's a first-round pick.'"
DOUG COLLINS ON LAVOY ALLEN

However, Allen is changing his perception around the league. By improving his nutrition and working out harder, he's dropped 10 pounds and lowered his body fat by 2.5 percent. He's also been a major piece of the Sixers' rotation the last three weeks.

In the last 12 games, Allen is averaging 5.7 points and 5.4 rebounds while playing 19.6 minutes a night. The Sixers have gone 8-4 during that span even though starting center Spencer Hawes (Achilles, back) has missed 10 of those games.

"I told him the only thing standing between you and being a really, really good NBA player is what kind of juice you bring to the game every night," Collins said of Allen. "He helped save our homestand."

ADAM LEVITAN

Lefty rallies

Phil halts Tiger, wins at Pebble Beach

Playing together in the day's second-to-last group, it was Phil Mickelson that triumphed over Tiger Woods. Lefty went from a six-shot deficit to a two-shot lead in six holes yesterday, closing with an eight-under 64 for a two-shot win over Charlie Wi. Lefty beat Tiger by 11 shots, marking his fourth career win at Pebble Beach and 40th career triumph.

METRO

A.J. on move?

Yanks, Bucs talk Burnett swap

After adding Michael Pineda and Hiroki Kuroda to their rotation, the Yankees are now trying to trade embattled starter A.J. Burnett.

The high-priced Burnett has been a bust for New York, posting a 34-35 record with a 4.79 ERA. Pittsburgh, looking for an innings-eating veteran, has engaged the Yankees in talks.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Wayne Simmonds has been an immediate contributor for the Flyers.

'Simmer' happy to make impact

◗ Key piece in offseason trade making Flyers fans forget Richards ◗ Simmonds third on team in goals

Wayne Simmonds had to keep telling himself he — and rookie Brayden Schenn — weren't brought here to replace Mike Richards. Easier said than done.

But gradually the gritty right wing with a penchant for scoring those critical "dirty" goals has made his presence felt. Even better, he's discovered he really likes it here.

"I think the change of scenery helped me out a little bit," said the 23-year-old Simmonds, who's already established a career high with 18 goals — third best on the team — and is nearing his career high 40 points with still 26 games to go, following last night's 4-3 loss at the hands of the white-hot Red Wings.

"I played my first three years of my career in L.A. and obviously I loved it there, but when I realized I was coming to Philadelphia, I talked to a lot of people," he continued. "I found out this is a first class organization. I'm happy right now. Everything about Philly I love. I'm in a really good spot right now."

In addition to being the consummate grinder, the rugged 6-foot-2, 183-pound Scarborough, Ontario, native has provided toughness and persistence at both ends of the ice. Once he realized he'd been brought here for precisely those reasons, the transition from laid-back L.A to blue-collar Philadelphia began to take hold.

"You try not to think about, but obviously you think about it," admitted Simmonds. "Me and Schenner got traded for the team's captain. That's a good feeling. The way I thought about it was they traded for me for a reason. Obviously they liked what they saw in my game. So I haven't changed anything in my game. I'm still physical. I still go to the net. Things have been working out."

Not only that, but Simmonds has quickly become a hero within the black community, going out to conduct clinics in the inner city and preaching the hockey gospel to kids who never considered it an option.

"People ask 'What do you do?'" he said. "I say 'I play hockey.' 'So you're Simmonds. You're that guy.'

"I like to go out and greet the fans. If there were a lot more African-Americans in the stands, that would be great."

He's certainly doing his part to make that happen and also keep the struggling Flyers in contention at the same time. Or put it this way:

Nobody's asking to bring Mike Richards back anytime soon.

JON MARKS
sports@metro.us

Fitting right in

The trade of Mike Richards was met with much skepticism from Flyers fans. Wayne Simmonds and Brayden Schenn, the two players they got in return for the immensely popular former captain, have silenced the doubters:

- **Simmonds and Brayden** Schenn have combined for 45 points, with Simmonds tallying 34 of those.
- **Richards, meanwhile, has** managed just 14 goals and 13 assists in 48 games for the Kings, who sit in seventh place in the NHL's Western Conference.

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MICHEAL D ARNOLD UNIT 1051
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YALONDA E. HOUSTON UNIT 6013
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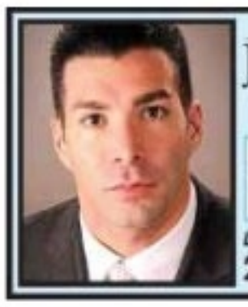

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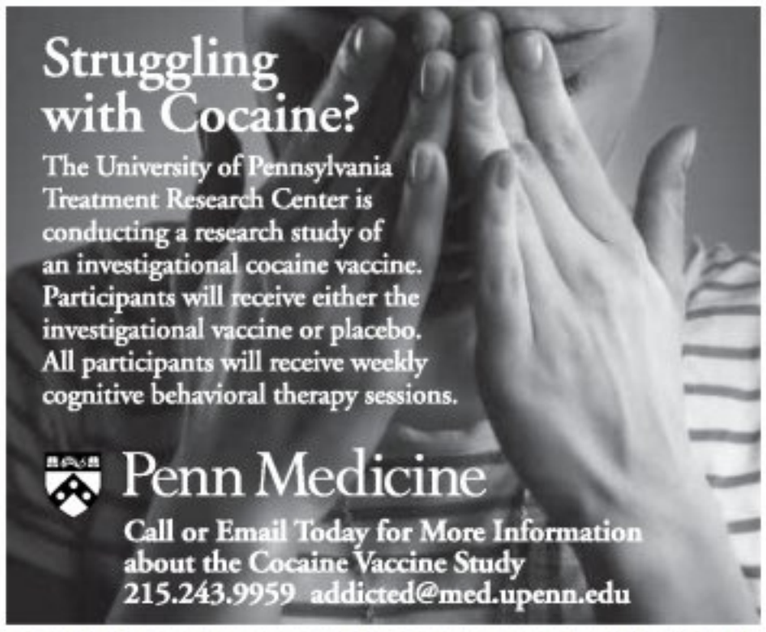

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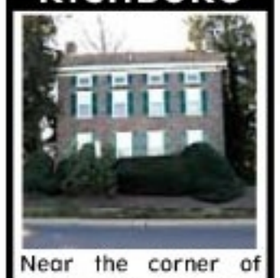

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motoring

Nissan's 'Godzilla' back on US shores

Reviewer says GT-R can frighten children, terrorize cities That Nissan has a supercar may surprise some

You'll know Nissan's "Godzilla" when you hear it roaring by.

With a starting price of less than $100,000, this Japanese sports coupe will go horse to raging horse with the Ferrari 458 Italia and Porsche 911 Turbo, cars vastly more expensive. It's a supercar on the relative cheap.

But the Ferrari and Porsche are dual in nature: Quick enough to bend physics yet docile enough to scoot around town. The GT-R's only two modes are viciously fast and off. "Off" as in engine dead, doors locked, driver elsewhere. This coupe is out-and-out brutal, beating drivers and passengers into Silly Putty. Glorious, so long as you like that kind of thing.

The car has been updated continually, and the 2012 model — the one I tested — got a big bump in power, to 530 horsepower and 448 pound-feet of torque. The 2013 model is even mightier, with 545 horsepower and 463 pound-feet. All that from a 3.8-liter, twin-turbo V-6.

The 2012 model started at around $91,000, whereas the 2013 is closer to $98,000. The only options on my premium version were the $280 floor mats with GT-R logos.

There are external differences since the first model, most notably in the rear, which finally looks exotic with a rim of carbon fiber and four fat tailpipes. The Frisbee-sized taillights glow devil-red at night.

This thing is a koan to impracticality, a paean to muscle. The hood is grossly oversized; the rims overflow the wheels. This is a thick-necked bull rather than a long-jointed sprinter. And that's exactly the way it drives. The GT-R doesn't slipstream through space or dart down the road; it drops a shoulder and razes everything in its path.

It's a noisy machine. It doesn't try to magic away its nature, cloaking power with silky shifts or sound-deadening materials. Rather it whines and clunks and grunts even at slow speeds. Even the paddle shifters are loud, each upshift comes with a metallic click and then a shudder as the next gear engages.

The new Porsche 911 is so fast and smooth that it's nearly decorous. The speedy Ferrari 458 carries you away with its sound. The GT-R cares only for immoderate speed.

While it doesn't look like a high-dollar supercar, it's actually one of the most shameless examples I've ever driven.

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At a glance

- **Speed:** 0 to 60 mph in 2.9 seconds
- **Gas mileage per gallon:** 16 city; 23 highway
- **Price as tested:** $91,230
- **Best feature:** Immoderate performance
- **Worst feature:** Noisy and clunky at slow speeds
- **Target buyer:** The driver who will sacrifice everything for speed

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motoring

Non bello! Ferraris unfashionable in Italy

Taxes and death

Crackdown

Tax agents last December found that 42 luxury car owners had declared income of less than 30,000 euros for 2010 and 2009. Another 19 luxury cars were owned by businesses which posted a loss in the previous year. The sweep in Florence discovered a builder with no tax record who was driving a Mercedes with his wife who was receiving social assistance. Tax officials also found a German owner of a BMW X5 SUV with no declared income, according to the website of the tax agency's Florence office.

Police fanned out across Milan in late January halting more than 350 vehicles, mostly luxury SUVs and Porsches.

At checkpoints, including one adjacent to the fashionable Corso Como, the police got the driver's license and registration, which they passed on to the national tax agency. The tax authorities will use the data to check if the cars' owners had declared enough income — and of course paid the right amount of income taxes — to justify their lifestyles.

It was at least the fifth raid targeting wealthy Italians since a Dec. 30 sweep at the posh Cortina d'Ampezzo ski resort, where 251 high-end cars were stopped, including Ferrari and Lamborghini supercars, Bloomberg Businessweek reports in its issue out today. Rome, Portofino on the Italian Riviera and Florence have also been targeted.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Driving one of these bad boys makes you a target for the taxman in Italy.

"I've been stopped three times in the last few weeks by authorities because I'm driving a luxury SUV," says Andrea, a Range Rover owner and entrepreneur in Italy's wealthy northeast. "It seems like the McCarthy era in America. You're guilty by suspicion."

The 43-year-old, who declined to give his last name for fear of attracting the attention of Italy's tax agency, now plans to sell the SUV he bought last May. He expects to get at most 40,000 euros ($52,400) for a car that cost him more than 100,000 euros.

"Dealers are full of luxury cars. No one wants to buy them now," the businessman said.

Italian authorities are applying to luxury car owners the same logic they displayed more than a year ago, when tax agents started tracking down the owners of yachts berthed in Italy's harbors to see if they were current on their tax payments.

This is serious stuff for the government, which estimates that tax evasion costs the country about 120 billion euros a year in lost revenue.

Demand for vehicles from the likes of Fiat's Ferrari and Maserati brands and Volkswagen's Lamborghini slumped 53 percent in January, with just 66 supercars sold, according to Anfia, the association of Italian carmakers. The new taxes and high-profile dragnets have also sent exotic-car prices down 20 percent, according to dealer association Federauto. **BLOOMBERG**

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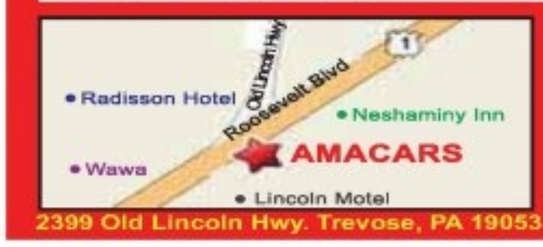

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